Call for OWCN Research Mentorship Proposals

In an effort to promote and support research through Oiled Wildlife Care Network Member Organizations, we are requesting proposals for the OWCN’s Research Mentorship Program. The goals of this program, aimed at OWCN rehabilitation and scientific organizations not already conducting larger research projects, are:

1) To foster scientific inquiry by OWCN Member Organizations;
2) To assist organizations in developing complete and feasible projects on relevant topics;
3) To help fund smaller, pilot studies to be conducted at OWCN member organization facilities; and
4) To advance best achievable capture & care of oiled wildlife, as defined in the Goals for the OWCN’s Research Program (http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/owcn/research/competitive_grants.cfm).

Program Description: Each interested OWCN Member Organization must apply by providing the information listed below. The OWCN Director, scientific staff, and a subcommittee of the OWCN’s Scientific Advisory Committee will review all complete applications. Successful applicants will then be assigned an OWCN Research Staff Mentor to assist in the development of a complete study design, and funding will be allocated to the organization to allow the study to commence. The OWCN Mentor will be available during the study for consultation and assistance, and will help the member organization in the development of a written report for publication or presentation.

Available Funding: Up to $10,000 total is currently available for Mentorship projects for 2012-2013. Additional funds may also be available for publication costs and travel expenses related to presenting study results at appropriate meetings (e.g., NWRA, EOW, Oilapalooza) on a case-by-case basis.

Application Process: Proposals must include:

1) APPLICANT INFORMATION: Primary researcher name, OWCN member organization affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address for principal investigator.
2) COLLABORATOR INFORMATION (if any): Name and affiliation only for all co-investigator(s).
3) GENERAL PROJECT IDEA (1/2 page maximum): State the question you want to address in this Project and any ideas on a general experimental design.
4) PREVIOUS PROJECT EXPERIENCE (1/2 page max): Provide any previous experience you, your organization, or your collaborators have working on the species and/or the topic proposed.
5) ORGANIZATION'S RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (1/2 page max): Provide a brief description of the current (or past) research efforts you or your organization is conducting in this area.
6) GENERAL BUDGET REQUEST (1 paragraph): Please briefly outline anticipated project budgetary needs, outlined according to the following categories: personnel; equipment; supplies; travel; other expenses. Final costs will be determined and approved after projects are fully developed with your OWCN Mentor. Acceptable costs include salaries, office expenses, equipment, animal care costs, lab fees and research-related travel. Note: Indirect (e.g. overhead) costs are not allowable costs.

Proposal Deadline: Proposals should be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word or Adobe .pdf format) to Michael Ziccardi at mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu no later than 5:00 pm on 27 July 2012. Questions or concerns can be directed to Dr. Ziccardi at his e-mail address or at (530) 754-5701.